

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 11, 2013

TIME: 8:00 a.m. North Parking Lot, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Shidell
Forestry Director Bilogan. Corporation Counsel Desmond

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 8:00 a.m. Vice-Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Rudolph, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Motion carried.

Almon Park Pavilion Project.

Committee members boarded a county-owned van and travelled to Almon Park to inspect the pavilion construction. No business was conducted while the committee travelled to and from Almon Park.

While at Almon Park, the Committee examined the reported discrepancies on the pavilion construction. No action was taken.

Upon returning to the Courthouse, the Committee reconvened in Committee Room #1 on the second floor.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn into closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, and 19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. The issue to be discussed is the Almon Park Pavilion Project and need for corrections.

The Committee returned to open session. No action was taken in closed session.

2014 Draft Forestry Dept Budget

Shidell asked how the foresters set up timber sales. Is it a year-round, full time job? Could private contractors set up sales? Bilogan explained the duties and funding for the Assistant Director, the Recreation Coordinator, LTE's and DNR liaison related to forestry. The question has come up before and studies show that it is not the most efficient, most cost effective method to hire outside contractors. Rudolph commented that it is a complex task and varies sale to sale. Oneida County Forestry has done a super job setting up sales and monitoring, and you can see it in the revenues. Martinson agreed that the department head is doing a tremendous job.

Martinson moved to pass the budget as presented by the department head. Rudolph seconded. Sorensen noted that the Administrative committee had raised the stumpage revenue goal last year, and he does not want to see that happen again. Bilogan reported that the projections of 2013 revenue will be closer to the goal than previously expected.

Forestry: Bilogan he would recommend that the Committee increase the 2013 and 2014 revenue to \$1,170,000. The reason we are closer to goal is that some contracts are coming up for extension and the loggers are trying to get them done so they don't pay the penalty. Additionally, the two months of the year historically have the largest revenues so it is difficult to estimate when the budget is being determined months earlier.

Bilogan pointed out the equipment budget is a non-lapsing account. Adding some money every year to avoid spikes down the road has been the method we have used. We are looking at replacing the mower attachment on the tractor. We will go with the most economic way, whether lease or purchase. Some of the trucks are getting ready to be replaced in the next year or two. We closed down Townline Park to reduce expenditures, so I think the department is going down the right path.

Parks. The parks capital improvement account used to be for building projects, but it is has evolved into capital maintenance. We have no projects upcoming except the Almon Park pavilion being completed. The bulk of the \$19,500 budget is expected to be used for seal coating parking lots at Almon and the entrance at Perch Lake Park. Shidell asked why seal coating is better than resurfacing. There was discussion about the pros and cons of seal coat.

Question was called to approve the budget as presented. All aye, motion carried.

Adjournment. With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Martinson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
VICE - CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY